

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 5, 1995

Published Since 1877

Mississippi-born...

Sunday Care program catching on across state

By William H. Perkins Jr.

It sprang from the hearts of Mississippi Baptist leaders four years ago as a way to reach unchurched children for Jesus Christ.

Today, Sunday Care has taken hold as a unique and effective means of sharing the salvation message with these special children.

"The main purposes of Sunday Care are to get as many children as possible under the influence of the gospel and to lead them to Christ. I've seen this program change the lives of children," said Charlie Hill of Jackson, who with

Jackson, which Causey pastored before being called to the convention board.

Sunday Care seemed like a natural fit when Causey approached him, Hill said.

"Sunday Care is really a spin-off of the bus ministry concept. There are a lot of similarities," he pointed out.

The first Sunday Care program, started in October 1991 at Crestwood Mission Center in Jackson, proved to be a success that continues to grow weekly.

With the Crestwood program now under the direction of Metro Association, the Hills travel around Mississippi to start Sunday Care with other local churches and associations.

Local support is vital, Hill said, since the programs are eventually turned over to local control so he and Oleta can start new programs elsewhere.

"This is a mission of a church or multiple churches in an association. We need sponsoring churches and associations to support this program in their communities," he pointed out.

The Sunday Care concept consists of several components aimed at children ages 4 to 12 whose life circumstances may be obstacles to their involvement in regular church activities. Those components include:

- Singing, often with audiotapes and videos.
- Learning the Lord's Prayer.
- Memorizing the books of the Bible.
- Studying Scripture.
- Presentation of a Bible story

by teacher or video.

— A short sermon delivered on a child's level.

— Invitation to receive Christ.

— Refreshments.

— Games and fun time.

— Items to take home.

Local churches and associations provide the facilities, along with trained workers who can counsel and follow up with children who accept Christ and want to be baptized.

The involvement of the child's parents and other family members is also stressed in the Sunday Care program, Hill said.

Active Sunday Care programs are located in Jackson (Crestwood Mission Center and Gateway Rescue Mission), Clinton (Burch Hill Church), Magee (New Life Center), and Kosciusko (First Church).



Crestwood Mission Center — Jackson

He's prepared if Jehovah's Witnesses come knocking

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Jay Hess spent 23 years going door-to-door witnessing for Jehovah and spreading the mission of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to the people in his community.

He readily accepted the changing policies and heavy restrictions handed down to Witnesses, who often refer to themselves as "faithful slaves of Jehovah," from the headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y. For 23 years, he believed they truly were God's "sole collective channel for the flow of biblical truth to men on earth." Today, his mind, eyes, and heart are open. He is a slave no longer, but now a servant of the Lord. The more work he did for the Watchtower the more he realized Jesus Christ was not merely "a god" as the Witnesses taught, but was also to be worshiped as they worshiped Jehovah.

"For decades, the Watchtower tolerated the view that Christ could be worshiped, but they did not agree with it. Then in 1990, they took a formal stand and announced that we would not worship him. This policy was enforced in every congregation," Hess said.

Hess refused to accept the new restriction and openly told other Witnesses he worshiped Jesus. It was not long before the Watchtower began to pursue him.

That was February 1992. Today, Hess is teaching Sunday School at Providence Church, Raleigh, N.C. He also has taught seminars and classes on how to witness to Witnesses.

To prepare for your next encounter with the Jehovah's Witnesses, Hess suggests:

— Get resource information about the Jehovah's Witnesses. Go to your church, the library, a university or seminary, or even to the local Kingdom Hall. You can also contact Hess' ministry at 1-800-484-8872; ext. 1914 or jayhess@nando.net.

— Take an evangelism course such as Evangelism Explosion so you are equipped to share your faith.

— Don't be defensive or argumentative. Jehovah's Witnesses are trained to expect the typical Christian responses.

— Be patient. Get to know Witnesses, especially those you see often at work or around town. Once they are comfortable with you, you'll have a better chance of sharing Christ with them.

— Pray, read the Scriptures, and trust the Holy Spirit's leading.



New Life Center — Magee

his wife Oleta directs the program for the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Hill said Sunday Care was conceived by Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, and Garland McKee, director of the MBCB Evangelism Department.

Hill served for 18 years as bus minister at Parkway Church,



First Church — Kosciusko

Hill is available for speaking engagements, and an introductory packet on Sunday Care is available.

For more information, contact Hill at Evangelism Department, MBCB, P.O. 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



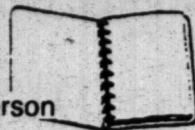
Gateway Rescue Mission — Jackson



Burch Hill Church — Clinton

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



How do we look?

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jim Henry addressed the issue of the SBC's appearance in the recent fall meeting of the Executive Committee in Nashville. Southern Baptists came away from the Atlanta convention looking good, and this has caused gratitude to abound. Presently we are sending record numbers of people to the mission fields, gifts to the Cooperative Program are slightly up, and baptisms seem on the upswing.

The 10-member restructuring transition committee has an awesome task, declared Henry. "It is one thing to draw a diagram on the chalk board; it is another to run the play on the field."

The racial reconciliation effort moved Southern Baptists toward a higher standard. Henry said more women would be involved in the SBC, possibly chairing committees. The nagging "rock in the shoe" was a "growing concern"

over the SBC and state convention's sphere of work. "We've got to work together," said Henry.

Ronnie Floyd, SBC Executive Committee chairman, declared that the restructuring of the SBC "will be carried out all the way."

The "how and how much" were seldom mentioned. The dollar amount could be staggering, and how the trustees of the Radio-TV Commission, the Brotherhood, and other agencies will fit into the plan has yet to be revealed.

Optimism was on the front burner at the Nashville meeting. James Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke of the \$8.2 million in the red recorded in 1994, but said things are turning upward. Some issue of SBC literature goes into 90% of all SBC churches; there were 38,000 teenagers in Centrifuge camp weeks nationwide. Indeed this is something all could rejoice about.

Morris Chapman, CEO of the Executive Committee, spoke of the record-breaking income to world mission causes. Richard Land was "excited" about the fight for religious liberty. Jack Johnson, president of the Radio-TV Commission, told of over 100 million Russians who have opportunity to watch Baptists' TV programs.

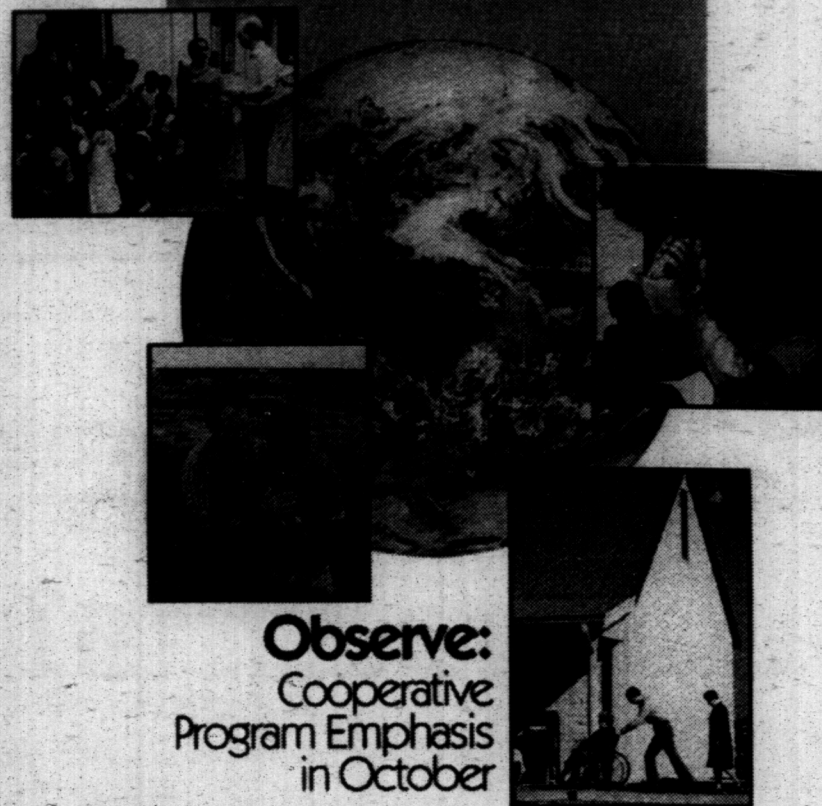
Missions were emphasized as "the bride of Christ in combat boots" by Dellanna O'Brien of the Woman's Missionary Union. Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president, was grateful for 302,000 baptisms last year in the areas served by our missionaries. This is a 15% increase in the number of baptisms over the previous year.

Each of the seminaries had an optimistic report.

Jim Henry observed that we can be paralyzed by analysis but we should not forget what we look like. "How do we look? Look into the mirror."

You Were There

THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



October is CP Month...

Why should churches up Cooperative Program giving?

By James Austin

Since the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, Southern Baptists have rallied around missions. In 1925, we gave the name Cooperative Program (CP) to the way Baptists chose to work together to share the gospel. Our Baptist forebears knew that few, if any, congregations alone would have the funds,

the personnel, or training to reach all of the world. It would take cooperation. It would take all the churches working and giving together.

Can you imagine trying to reach the world without the Cooperative Program? Certainly not! By increasing our Cooperative Program giving, we will be

able to enlarge our witness at home and abroad.

Why increase giving through the CP?

- The CP supports about 4,000 foreign missionaries as they serve in over 130 countries of the world. It keeps them from being forced to raise money, or even worse, to have to abandon their mission sta-

tion and return to the U.S.

- The CP will help us proclaim the gospel to over 167 million non-Christians in the United States. Any one of them is sufficient reason to make increased mission giving through the CP a priority in our churches. About 5,000 home missionaries also depend on our CP giving.

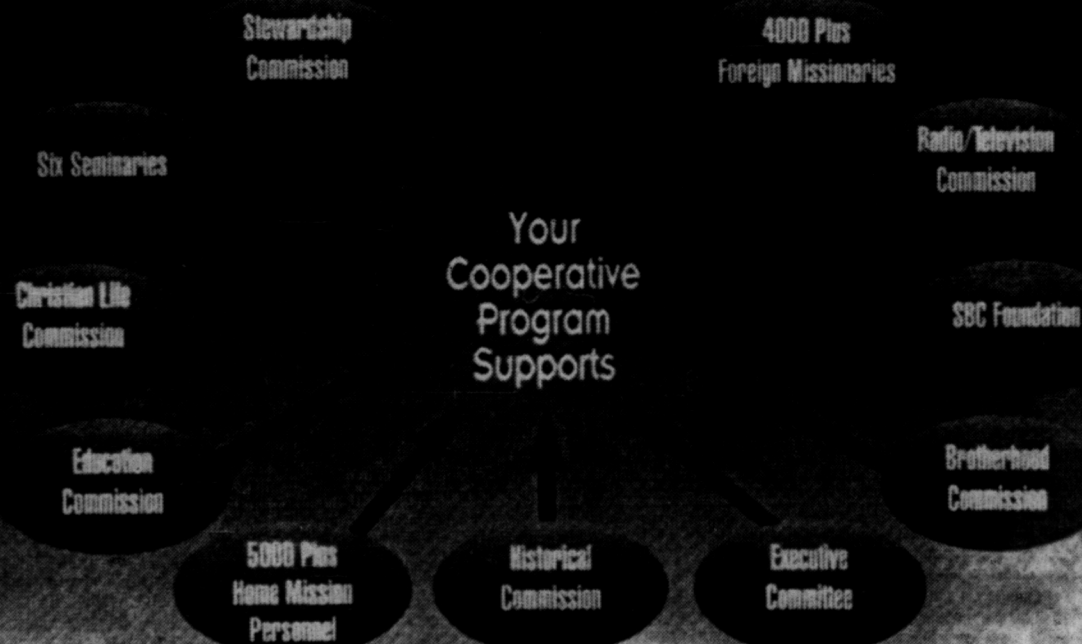
- The CP makes possible the vast number of mission ministries and services provided by 36 state conventions and three state fellowships: care for the needy, the sick, the aged, and the lost.

- The CP undergirds the more than 14,000 students in six seminaries who depend heavily upon our CP giving for their educations.

Why increase CP giving? Because Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20, NKJV). That's why!

Austin works for the SBC Stewardship Commission, Nashville.

Celebrate The Cooperative Program Event in October



THE FRAGMENTS

Please, just sign it

Most every week **The Baptist Record** gets anonymous letters. Some are laden with excellent ideas but we cannot use a letter that is not signed. We can withhold the name if it would cause embarrassment, but unsigned materials cannot be used.

Was it Dwight L. Moody who once received a note on his way to the pulpit? There was only one word on it: "Fool."

Moody then said, "I have received a lot of messages with no signature, but this is the first time I received the signature with no message."

Remember that people will read a short letter first. Try to limit the letter to one thought. Current ideas and topics are preferred. There are few issues where there are not at least two views.

You don't have to use a computer or a typewriter; we still can read handwritten letters...or you can send it via E-Mail.

People are interested in the opinions of others. "Letters to the Editor" could well be the most-read section of **The Baptist Record**. Keep the "signed" cards and letters coming.

— GH

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Federal gambling commission endorsed by Baptist leaders

WASHINGTON (compiled from wire and staff reports) — A federal commission to scrutinize gambling's effects on the nation should be established, Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry and Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard D. Land said in a letter to the 35 members of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

Committee hearings are scheduled to begin on Sept. 29.

The letter stated, "We agree with the sponsor of H.R. 497, Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., the United States is on a 'gambling binge.' We also share Rep. Wolf's assertion, 'This is an issue of national economic importance, and I

believe the new Congress should examine it closely.'"

Wolf introduced the bill to form the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission for the purpose of compiling information on gambling's effect on economics, crime, families, and individuals. The nine-member panel Wolf proposes will have three members appointed by the president, three by the Senate majority leader, and three by the speaker of the House of Representatives. One of the appointees should be a governor from a state which has legalized gambling, he said.

"A congressional commission has the potential of alerting Americans to the dangers of gambling in

the same way that the Commission on Pornography formed in 1985 by then-Attorney General Edwin Meese warned of the danger inherent in allowing unbridled proliferation of pornographic material," said Lamar Cooper, the CLC staff member who handles the gambling issue.

"The gambling industry has convinced large numbers of the public and state legislators that gambling revenue is a 'free lunch' to state budget needs, but there still 'ain't no free lunch,'" Cooper said. "An unbiased commission could point out the discrepancies that exist between what the gambling industry promises to state governments versus what it actu-

ally delivers. The use of gambling as a source of revenue does not come without a cost. That cost is the negative impact it has on people and communities."

Wolf gave some examples of his concerns about gambling's impact:

— "Gambling cannibalizes other business, such as restaurants," he said. The number of restaurants in Atlantic City decreased in 10 years from 243 in 1977, the year after the legalization of casinos, to 146.

— In the first 16 years of casino gambling in Atlantic City, the police budget tripled to \$24 million while the population fell 20%, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. The crime rate rose 230% in the city's first 13 years of legalized casinos, Wolf said.

Only Hawaii and Utah prohibit gambling. There are lotteries in 37 states and casinos in 23 states, Wolf said. By the year 2000, it is predicted 95% of Americans will live within a three- to four-hour drive of a casino, he said.

Henry and Land urged careful consideration and speedy approval

in setting up the government commission, saying, "We hope that you will agree with us that The National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission must be established and its work quickly and thoroughly completed."

Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission, is in favor of federal action.

"The reality is that organized crime is a part of legalized gambling. With the same people being licensed in different states, the interstate commerce aspect of this business demands national oversight and control," he said.

Jones pointed to Spectrum Gaming, which lost a bid last year to build a casino within walking distance of Gulfshore Assembly, the state Baptist campground in Pass Christian.

A recent raid by the FBI on Spectrum's parent company in Minneapolis revealed alleged ties to a New York crime family, Jones said.

"I hope this commission leads to federal laws that are more restrictive than laws implemented on the state level," he said.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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BSSB head sees financial turnaround in '95

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A projected record turnaround in finances and a range of ministry successes highlight the Baptist Sunday School Board's (BSSB) 1994-95 year, according to a report from President James T. Draper Jr. to the agency's trustees, meeting Sept. 25-27 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

The detailed, 70-minute report was met with a standing ovation in response to projections for the fiscal year to end just five days later.

Draper told trustees "... the news is good. In fact, in some areas, the news is spectacular!"

Projections for year-end are for \$244.5 million in income, more than \$1 million over budget and almost \$20 million ahead of last year. Funds Provided from Operations, revenue above operating costs used for expanded ministries, is projected at \$5.6 million, compared to a budgeted \$100,000 and last year's loss of \$8.2 million.

Draper said the loss of a year ago "was a low point for me, for

the (board's) executive management group and for all employees."

Trustees later approved a 1995-96 budget of \$266.7 million, a 9.1% increase over the current year's projection including Funds Provided from Operations of almost \$6.5 million, a 14.9% increase over this year's projection, and 2.4% of total revenue.

Due to rising paper costs that have outpaced inflation, trustees also approved a 7% average increase in the prices of dated church literature beginning with the April-May-June 1996 issues. Paper pulp prices increased 66.9% from June 1994 to June 1995, reaching an all-time high in September.

In reporting on the current budget, Draper said revenue was \$227.3 million through Aug. 31, compared to a budget of \$217.9 million, or 4.3% ahead of budget.

"As of Sept. 30," he announced, "our capital debt will be down to \$8.4 million. We are ahead of our three-year payback schedule."

Among improved results

reported by Draper are:

— Projected sales of \$94.2 million by the retail group, representing \$7 million or 8% growth.

— A major turnaround by the church leadership services divi-

corporate overhead components, while operating under budget.

— Development of resources that meet needs and transform lives.

"*Experiencing God*," he said, "stands as our most remarkable



"The news is good. In fact, in some areas the news is spectacular!"

— James T. Draper, president
Baptist Sunday School Board

sion resulting in a net contribution for 1994-95 compared to a loss last year.

— An actual sales growth of 19% by Broadman & Holman (B&H) through August.

— An excellent year for Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

— Increased productivity by

recent example. We continue to ship 1,300 copies of this course every business day to churches and individuals around the world."

— Progress in using technology to maximize effectiveness and meet needs. For example, he said SBCNet, the denomination's data communications network, now has

more than 6,000 subscribers.

With implementation of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee recommendations, if bylaw changes are approved in 1996, the BSSB will take on additional ministries that have been funded by the Cooperative Program. Those include stewardship education, church history and heritage education, capital fund-raising, implementing a comprehensive strategy for enrichment ministries with men and women and assisting churches with Christian school and home school ministries.

The BSSB receives no CP funds but is self-supporting and contributes funds annually to SBC agencies and state Baptist conventions.

In other matters, trustees heard a progress report on a feasibility study for raising capital funds for needed facility improvements at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest Conference centers. A recommendation on whether to conduct a capital campaign is expected at the February 1996 trustee meeting.

National, state Cooperative Program on record pace

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention ended the 1994-95 fiscal year with a record \$145,739,489 in Cooperative Program gifts, surpassing by nearly \$3 million the record given last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$145.7 million total for 1994-95 is 2.01%, or \$2,872,706, above last year's record gifts of \$142,866,782.

In addition, designated gifts for the year rose to \$132,830,194, also a record, compared to last year's \$127,828,517 — an astounding \$5,001,677 increase or 3.91%,

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Cooperative Program Performance

	1994	1995
SEPTEMBER		
CP Budget Goal	1,874,070	1,709,279
Receipts	1,911,616	1,876,745
Variance	37,546 2%	167,466 9.8%
YEAR TO DATE		
CP Budget Goal	22,452,000	22,606,579
Receipts	22,474,619	17,646,209
Variance	22,619 .10%	(4,960,370) -21.9%

With the year three-quarters gone, Mississippi Baptists have kept up with the pledge they made at last year's Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), where messengers set a 1995 Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$22,606,579.

If Mississippi Baptists continue giving to the CP at the same rate as in the first nine months of 1995, giving will be \$23,528,277 — \$921,698 over budget. Any budget overage is to be divided 50% to Mississippi Christian Education, 25% to the Southern Baptist Convention, and 25% to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

September giving to the CP was \$1,876,745. Total receipts for 1995 are \$17,646,209 — \$778,872, or 4.62%, more than that given in the same period of 1994.

The CP budget, set each year at the MBC, is an estimate of giving by the 2,000 participating Southern Baptist churches in the state over the next year. A total of 37% of all gifts go to Southern Baptist causes outside the state. The rest funds such work as child care, Christian higher education, and leadership training.



Bethlehem marks 125

Bethlehem Church, Laurel (above), will celebrate its 125th anniversary with homecoming activities Oct. 7-8. On Saturday, Oct. 7, the church will serve a catered meal at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Desserts will be provided by women of the congregation from a church cookbook being published for the anniversary. The program for the weekend will feature pastors, musicians, and others who have served Bethlehem in previous years or who have been called out from Bethlehem to various fields of Christian service. Valton Douglas, now in his 14th year as pastor at Bethlehem, will serve as master of ceremonies for all the services. Bethlehem was organized as Dry Swamp Church in 1870. Its place of worship was changed several times in its early years. The name Bethlehem was adopted in 1877. Shortly afterward, in the mid-1880s, the church moved to its present location. A new wood-frame church building was constructed in 1903-04, and later bricked over. Sections of the original walls could be seen last year when the building was demolished to clear a site for a new education, office, and family life complex.

Douglas

Religious educators to gather for fall meeting

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association will hold its 1995 Fall Luncheon on Monday, Oct. 30, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Colonial Heights Church in Jackson.

Walt Grayson, meteorologist at Jackson television station WLBT and an ordained Southern Baptist minister, will be the featured speaker. Grayson, a member of First Church, Brandon, also produces the popular "Mississippi Seen" video series.

Special guests include Mike Harland, minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon, and Dot Pray, contract keyboard consultant in the Church Music

Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations are required, and payment must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 18. A limited number of meals will be available after the deadline for \$15 per person.

Reservations and payments may be sent to David Webb, c/o Union Baptist Church, 1716 West Union Road, Picayune, MS 39466.

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Recent donation marks milestone for the Owen Cooper Foundation

When James Fletcher of Gideon, Mo., recently sent \$4,000 to the Owen Cooper Foundation, little did he know that his gift would push the foundation's principal over the \$100,000 mark.

This announcement was made at the summer meeting of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd. The meeting took place on Aug. 18 at First Church, Greenville, where the Agricultural Missions Foundation was first organized 25 years ago.

The corpus of the foundation will never be spent; only its income will go directly to support the projects and programs of Agricultural Missions.

The Owen Cooper Foundation was established five years ago as a "perpetual memorial to a Christian businessman." Cooper was a native of Yazoo City and one-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

His longtime associate Gene Triggs now serves as president of the Owen Cooper Foundation, Inc.

Triggs commented that Yazoo City native Cooper loved his church and his denomination, and devoted his life to agriculture, to missions, to fighting hunger, and to reaching lost people for Christ. The foundation seemed an appropriate way to honor a man who organized and served as president

of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., said Triggs.

Regarding the organization of the Agricultural Missions Foundation, Cooper once said: "It has been proven that one of the most effective ways to win lost people to Christ is through Agricultural Missions. A man with a hungry growling stomach will not listen to a message of the gospel."

When asked about the foundation, Mrs. Owen Cooper, who now resides in Madison, said, "Owen's number one concern was trying to find ways to help needy and hungry people and to reach them with a message of salvation.... A foundation bearing his name... would be a way to extend his lifelong efforts to help people help themselves — and for this I am grateful."

For more information or suggestions about forms of giving, write to Owen Cooper Foundation Inc., 120 North Congress, Suite 725, Jackson, MS 39201.

Agricultural Fellowship to meet during Lay Missions Conference

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30, in Room E-421 at First Church, Jackson. The meeting is part of the annual Lay Missions Conference which precedes the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



Baker

Featured speaker will be agricultural missionary Ronald P. Baker, director of Baptist Rural Development in Bengkulu, Indonesia. Baker, an Arkansas native, and his wife have served as agricultural evangelists in Indonesia since 1985.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity for interested

Mississippi Baptists to learn of the fellowship's work in support of agricultural missionaries around the world, including the current Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) partnership with Baptists in Honduras and the planned partnership with Venezuela that begins in 1996.

For more information, contact the MBCB Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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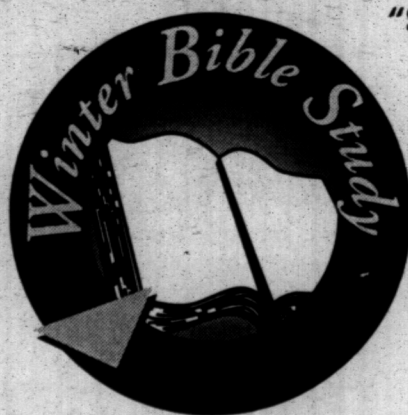
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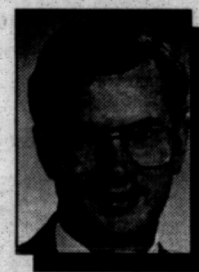


"Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you..."

Amos 5:14 (NAS)

1996 WINTER BIBLE STUDY

AMOS: Repentance or Run



Ken Parker



Waylon Bailey

DATE: October 10, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

TEACHERS: Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, LA
adult leadership leader

Ken Parker, BSSB curriculum product development specialist
youth leadership leader

COST: None

LUNCH: Complimentary of MBCB Sunday School Department

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

For more information, contact Larry Salter, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.

HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 5, 1995

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

LAY RENEWAL/LAY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

by Sidney Ellis,
State Church Renewal Coordinator

Many churches in Mississippi have experienced Lay Renewal Weekends with great success over the past 22 years. Still many pastors and laymen do not know what this weekend experience can accomplish for a church.



During the Lay Missions Conference at First Baptist Church, Jackson, on October 30, 1995, the Church Renewal Fellowship has planned a "Mini-Lay Renewal" for its annual meeting. All publicity for the Lay Missions conference has the conference beginning at 3 p.m. However, the Church Renewal Fellowship will begin at 2 p.m. with registration starting at 1:45 p.m.

The "Mini-Lay Renewal" will give pastors and laypersons an opportunity to experience an abbreviated weekend. It will give an idea of what to expect from this renewal event. Renewal can be briefly defined as revival of the church, awakening of the individual, and releasing of the layperson into ministry.

The purposes of renewal are twofold: (1) to awaken and equip Christians to express their faith in Christ by penetrating their everyday worlds with the message and ministry of Christ and (2) to call churches to a deeper commitment to Christ as Lord over every area of church life. The renewal journey helps provide a church strategy for accomplishing these purposes by motivating and releasing the layperson into meaningful ministry within existing church structures and in the world. If you agree with these purposes and you are looking for a way to implement them in your church, then you should consider the renewal process as a possible strategy for your church.

During our Lay Missions Conference, the Church Renewal Fellowship will help to better understand the renewal process. If you want further information, contact Sidney Ellis, State Church Renewal Coordinator, at the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Lay Missions Conference

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.



Featured Personalities



James D. Williams
Sixth President
Brotherhood Commission SBC,
Memphis



Dan McBride
Musician/Humorist
Jacksonville, Tex.



Allen Harris
Minister of Music
North Oxford BC
Oxford, Miss.

October 30, 1995
First Baptist Church, Jackson

Conferences begin at 3 p.m.
Banquet begins at 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

For more information or to register contact Gail in the Brotherhood Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

Pray this day... October 21-November 8

The **Mississippi Baptist Convention** meets at the end of this month at First Baptist Church, Jackson. It is usually a very delightful time of good preaching, reports on our work, and it is especially pleasant for friends to see each other there, often the only time of the year they get to visit. Let's pray this day...

Prayer Ministry Office
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone 968-3800; Ext. 3904
Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

for all the folks in our churches who will be elected messengers to the Convention	for the committees responsible for the Convention, that their work will be completed well	for the staff at First Baptist Church as they function in their fine hospitable way, though their work load surely increases	for folks in the Baptist Building as they complete their responsibilities for the Convention, especially as they prepare the displays and provide materials there for churches to use	for secretaries in the Baptist Building in their increased work loads related to the Convention	for all the program personnel enlisted - their safety in travel, their health, their preparation, their parts on the program	for those who will preside and give other kinds of leadership during the actual meetings
for the Convention Board in their meetings, especially for new Convention Board members	for a spirit of unity in being about bringing the world to know Jesus	for all a new dedication to support of missions here and around the world	for missionaries Clifton and Cathy Curtis in Burkina Faso as they minister to new believers who are encountering persecution from their families at one of their preaching points	for missionaries Morley and Rebecca Mason in Indonesia, especially for continued improvement with treatment for Rebecca's chronic illness	for bivocational ministers who know the stress of double-duty ministry	for youth ministers as they make plans to help their youth attend the Youth Evangelism Conference December 28 and 29 at Mississippi College
for churches as they plan for helping families have a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday	for MKs in the colleges in our state	for your pastor	for a homebound friend			



DECEMBER

The numbers indicate the day of the month and the year of birth. For instance, 3-76 means December 3, 1976.

- 3-76 — Miss Stephanie Corey, 7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520; Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance
- 4-86 — Miss Katie R. Gray, R. Ruy Pinto Bandeira 1112, 29090-460 Vitoria, ES BRAZIL; Parents: Tony & Karen, Music Promotion
- 6-88 — Miss Marisa M. Womble, 3503 Lemington Road, Pensacola, FL 32504; Parents: Freddie & Karen, General Evangelism, SERVE IN PARAGUAY
- 13-78 — Mr. T. Kyle White, 201-5 O Jung Dong, Daeduk-Ku, Taejon 306-010, KOREA; Parents: Jerry & Glenda, General Evangelism
- 14-83 — Miss Jennifer R. May, 1379 Walnut Hall Court, Memphis, TN 38119, Parents: Stan & Iva, General Evangelism, SERVE IN ZIMBABWE
- 18-81 — Miss Elizabeth A. Hamilton, 4710 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117, Parents: John & Cheryl, General Evangelism, SERVE IN WEST INDIES
- 19-73 — Miss Carroll Sugg, 5025 Wayneland Drive, C-2, Jackson, MS 39211, (MC Student); Parents: Rob & Nan, General Evangelism, SERVE IN TAIWAN
- 20-78 — Mr. John A. Latham, P. O. Box 80327, Davao City, PHILIPPINES 8000; Parents: Tony & Kathy, Theological Education by Extension
- 20-83 — Miss Michelle S. Shearer, (same as below)
- 20-85 — Miss Kimberly D. Shearer, 184 Franklin Shows Road, Laurel, MS 39440, Parents: Kevin & Pam, General Evangelism
- 21-76 — Miss Christina S. Wallace, USM, P. O. Box 4805, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-4805; Parents: Karl & Peggy, Mission Administration, SERVE IN COLOMBIA
- 22-77 — Miss Alicia K. Parker, Caixa Postal 88, 66017-970 Belem, PA, BRAZIL; Parents: Ronnie & Beth, Music Promotion, SERVE IN EQUATORIAL BRAZIL
- 30-85 — Mr. Jeffrey R. Parker, II, 28 Tremena Gardens, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 5WH; UNITED KINGDOM; Parents: Jeffrey & Shiela, General Evangelism



The Music Ambassadors of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be in concert at

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1995
7 p.m.

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HOUSE TOPS

CML NEWS

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MINISTRY



Media Libraries... Ministering to Preschoolers 1995-96

24th Annual CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

October 20-21, 1995

First Baptist Church, Louisville, Miss.

Conference Leaders



Beth Andrews is field services consultant for the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB.



Lisa McMillin is a computer specialist with Tempco Steel and a member of the Church Media Library staff at First BC, Louisville.



Charles Businaro is a Facilities Planner/ Designer for the BSSB.



Farrell Blankenship is the State Media Library Director and Department Director of Broadcast Services, MBCB.



Susan Morehead is the Master Library System Support and Sales Representative, Baptist Sunday School Board.



Peggy Tacon is a special worker for the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB. She is the media library director at Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.



Pat Brown is a consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville.



Linda Reeves is the preschool/children's consultant for the Sunday School Department, MBCB.



John Temple is pastor of First Baptist Church, Madison, Miss.

Agenda

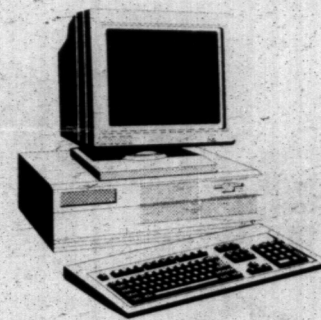
Friday, October 20, 1995

8:30 am-9:30 am	Registration and Browse Book Store
9:30-10:30	Opening Session
10:30-Noon	Selective Conferences
Noon-1:00	Lunch and Browse Baptist Book Store
1:00-2:00	Selective Conferences
2:00-2:15	Break and Browse Baptist Book Store
2:15-4:45	Selective Conferences—continue
5:00-6:30	Dinner and Browse Baptist Book Store
6:30-9:00	Selective Conferences

Saturday, October 21, 1995

8:15-8:45	Business Session
9:00-10:30	Selective Conferences—continue
10:30-11:00	Break and Browse Baptist Book Store
11:00-Noon	Selective Conferences—continue

If you are interested in attending the 24th Annual State CML Conference, contact the Broadcast Services Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.



SBCNET / CompuServe Training Conference

Dates and Locations

(All times will be 10 am - noon)

Mon. October 9

First Baptist Church, Tupelo

Tues. October 10

Lauderdale Baptist Association Office,
Meridian

Thurs. October 12

First Baptist Church, Wiggins

Items to be discussed:

- CompuServe Basics
- SBCNet Basics
- Internet
- Future of SBCNet and the MS Library.

For more information about this special training, contact David Wills at the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

Senior Adult Rally Friday, October 20, 1995

Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian

Featuring

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Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800 for more information

1995 Youth Ministers conference

**October 23-25
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.**

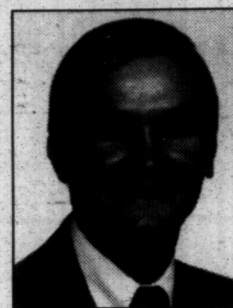
- trends in youth ministry
- personal struggles issues



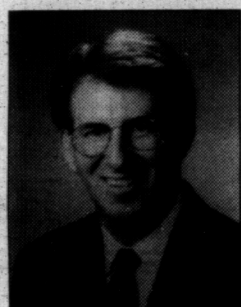
David Chatel &
Allison Crymes



Sheldon Gooch



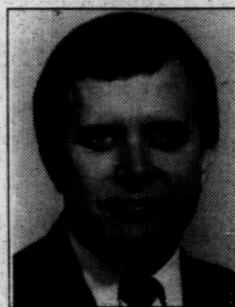
Richard Ross



Randall O'Brien



Tracy Pourciau



Jay Richardson

For reservations

Call Lake Tiak O'Khata (773-7853) or write Lake Tiak O'Khata, P.O. Box 160, Louisville, MS 39339. A block of rooms is being held for this conference until October 9. At that time all rooms which have been on hold will be released. It is necessary to guarantee the accommodations with a credit card or send a deposit of \$45. Cancellation will be accepted if received by Lake Tiak O'Khata prior to October 19. Preschool child care will be provided at FBC, Louisville, at no additional cost.

For more information, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

**First Baptist Church, Jackson
Monday, October 30, 1995
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

† Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information and Support for the Minister's Wife!

† There is no cost for this conference.

† Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please use registration form to schedule child care by October 23.

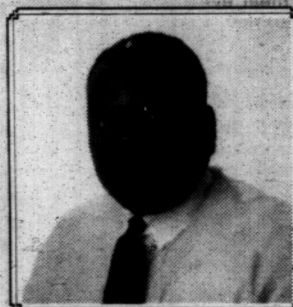
††† Program Personnel †††

Dottie Hudson - Minister's Wife; Associate Minister of Counseling/Family Ministry, FBC, Jackson

Ron Mumbower - Minister of Marriage and Family Counseling, FBC, Jackson

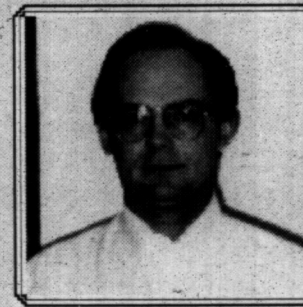
For information about this program or to register, contact Anne Martin in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

BROWN-DAVIS AWARDS FOR 1995



Sammy Agnew

First Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Baldwyn



Randy Wilson

Westwood Baptist Mission
Eupora

Richard Brogan, Consultant, Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, announces the winners of the Brown-Davis Awards for 1995. The recipients are being recognized for their ministry in racial reconciliation.

J. Sammy Agnew, pastor, First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Baldwyn, and Randy Wilson, Bible teacher, Westwood Baptist Mission, Eupora, will receive their award on October 19, 1995, 6:30 p.m., Baptist Building, Sky Room, Jackson.

The Brown-Davis Award, given for reconciliation activities, was named for W. P. Davis, a Southern Baptist who served as a Director of National Baptists for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and T. B. Brown, a National Baptist pastor in Jackson. Davis and Brown crossed cultural and racial boundaries with bridges of understanding and courage.

Homecomings



Concord Church, Pelahatchie, held a deacon ordination service on Aug. 27. A reception was held for the newly-elected deacons following the service. Alan Stephens (from left), director of missions, gave the charge to the church. Dale Purvis, Mark McMullin, and Aaron Henderson Jr., are the church's new deacons. LaVerne Summerlin, pastor (right), gave the charge to the deacons.

Two mission endeavors are being sponsored by Prentiss Church, Prentiss. Randall Rich, pastor, led revival services as a part of the Whole Life Festival at the Browncroft Baptist Mission in Rochester, N.Y., Sept. 22-24. The festival began on Sept. 16 with a health fair and continued through the week with family support activities. The revival services concluded the festival. Harold

Wilson, retired missionary, has gone to Dominica through Oct. 6 to lead in revival and evangelism training programs.

Bob and Jan Salley, gospel recording artists from Marthaville, La., will present a program of gospel music at Mashulaville Church near Macon, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. They serve as Mission Service Corps Volunteers and artists in residence for the Home Mission Board. They are founders of World Hunger Relief, Inc., a Christian non-profit corporation that teaches the needy to help themselves through a simple gardening technique.

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PASTOR'S LIBRARY for sale: Bob Lynch, Central Baptist Church, McComb. (601) 684-6419.

BROADMOOR BAPTIST Church is seeking individuals for full or part-time employment in the Weekday Education Program. The individual must be 18 years of age or older, an active member of a Christian church family, show Christian commitment, physically fit, and mentally alert. The individual must have at least one (1) year experience in the area of early childhood weekday education and demonstrates a love for children. Send resume to Joe Picarella, Minister Early Preschool, 787 East Northside,

Jackson, MS 39206; or phone (601) 366-8500.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1526 Gardner Blvd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

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Mt. Vernon (Leflore): Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; singing in the afternoon; Billy Bob Guest, guest speaker.

Siloam, West Point: Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; William Smith, Tupelo, guest speaker; Rell Webber, Jackson, guest singer; David Bishop, pastor.

Riverside, Money: Oct. 8; 76th year; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; 2 p.m. concert; Marion Holley, Shannon, former pastor, guest speaker; Oct. 7, 3-6 p.m., fellowship and catfish supper; Preston Kelly Jr., pastor.

First, Nicholson: Oct. 22; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; Timothy Martin, pastor.

New Hope, Monticello: Oct. 8; Bible Study, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing, 1:15 p.m.; Harold Bethune, former pastor, guest speaker; "4 All 2 Hear" quartet, guest singers; David B. Williams, pastor.

Clear Branch (Rankin): 98th year; Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; Roger Lee, guest speaker; 1:30 p.m. singing with the Gospel Messengers and The Clear Branch Boys; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, West: Oct. 15; Earl Bishop gospel quartet, 10 a.m.; Ken Boyette, guest speaker,

11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; H.C. Adams, pastor.

Mt. Olive, Okolona: Oct. 8; 123rd anniversary; beginning 10:30 a.m., reading of church history, memorial service, recognition of charter families; Tom Maples, former pastor, message; dinner on the grounds, noon; Dudley and Linda Brasher, Eddie and Debbie Corley, Paul Johnson, Dolly Nabors on program; Fred Jolly, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid: Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m.; Johnnie Spencer, guest speaker; covered dish dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon singing.

Holly Springs, Foxworth: Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m.; Robert Sones, D'Lo, guest speaker; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30,

with Daystar, Columbia; no night services.

Grace Memorial, Tupelo: Oct. 8; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship services, 11; lunch, noon; afternoon singing; Joe Holcomb, pastor.

Shelton, Moselle: Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; afternoon singing with the Heritage Gospel Singers, 1:30 p.m.; David Smith, Fayetteville, Ga., guest speaker; Herbert Kinnon, interim pastor.

Damascus, Flora: Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; William E. "Sonny" Bradshaw Jr. of Yazoo City, pastor, speaker; dinner in fellowship hall following services; special afternoon music, Double Portion of Star.

Revival Dates

New Hope (Leake): Oct. 8-11; Sunday, homecoming; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship services, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; Jimmy Young, former pastor, guest speaker; revival, Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, Pearl, evangelist; Bobby Barfoot, pastor.

First, Tutwiler: Oct. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Weatherwax, Grenada, evangelist; Leon Sumner, Scobey, music; J.B. Hays Jr., pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: youth revival; Oct. 8-11; 7 p.m.

nightly; Mike Reeves, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Pope (Panola): Oct. 15-18; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Kilgore, Batesville, evangelist; Ken Lewis, music; G.E. Jolley, interim pastor.

Cascilla (North Central): Oct. 29-Nov. 1; services, 7 p.m.; Steve Wilkes, professor, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; David Sapp, pastor.

John Ira Hill, retired pastor, dies at age 88

John Ira Hill, 88, died Sept. 28 in Roxie. The Dunns, La., native was a resident of Meadville, and a member of Providence Church there.

Hill was a retired pastor. He ministered for over 50 years in Baptist churches throughout Mississippi. After retirement, Hill served several interim pastorates and also worked with the Southwest Mississippi Area Agency on Aging.

Funeral services were held Sept. 30 at Providence Church, Meadville, with burial in the Providence Cemetery.

Hill is survived by his sister-in-law Winnie Maude Posey, her husband Ralph, and a number of nieces and nephews.

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Uniform

The worth of a person



By Andy Brasher
Acts 8

As a child, I was taught a song in Sunday School. You probably know it as well. The song goes like this: "... Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Tragically, most adults and Christians do not really believe the veracity contained in this quaint children's melody. However, beyond a doubt, it is true!

In this world, prejudice and racism are common social ills. Even worse, they are sin! Please be not fooled — like rape and murder, prejudice and racism are just as evil. They serve as the breeding ground for anger, hatred, and mistrust. Our history as a nation exemplifies this fact. Prejudice and racism served as a major factor in the Civil War (1861-65), and is a major source of community violence today.

Such a crippling disease has no place in the church or in the heart of God's people. God is color-blind, as we should be! The real question behind prejudice and racism boils down to individual worth. According to my interpretation of the Scriptures, everyone has worth, independent of race or sex, and faces God on equal footing. The gospel is offered to all. Grace is extended to all. Through faith, we become partakers of God's promise (Gal. 3:26-29). In this week's lesson, we see this principle in action.

Philip, along with Peter and John, preached the gospel to the Samaritans (vv. 5, 14). This was the first missionary proclamation of the gospel to a people normally despised by the Jews. The Jews considered the Samaritans half-breeds.

The Samaritans were of mixed stock. They claimed to be the true people of God and worshiped at their own temple on Mt. Gerizim. Thus, the Samaritans were ostracized by the Jews for their unworthiness. In sharp contrast, Philip, Peter and John, the Christian Jews, did no such thing. They embraced, preached to, and baptized the Samaritans in the name of Jesus (vv. 14-16). As a testament to the worth of the Samaritans, the Holy Spirit came upon them and was received by them (v. 17).

Philip, during his return to Jerusalem, was directed by the Holy Spirit southward to the Gaza desert. Without question, Philip obeyed the Spirit's command (vv. 26-27). As he traveled, Philip encountered an Ethiopian eunuch, the treasurer to Queen Candace. The eunuch was returning home from his religious pilgrimage to Jerusalem (vv. 27-28).

Philip, motivated by the Spirit, approached the chariot, where he found the man reading Isaiah 53:7. After some discussion, the eunuch invited Philip to explain this prophetic passage concerning the Messiah to him (vv. 30-36). Upon receiving the message, the eunuch believed in Jesus Christ and was baptized (vv. 37-38).

On the surface, this story seems to be commonplace, but in reality, it's remarkably different. First, the Ethiopian eunuch was a believer in the God of Israel. This is uncommon, because Ethiopia was pagan. Evidently, the eunuch had come in contact with either the Septuagint or the Hebrew Scriptures during his travels. He was familiar with Jewish worship and was presumably an ardent "God-fearing" Gentile.

Second, the eunuch represented a different race, not just a different ethnic group. Third, as a eunuch, he was forbidden under Jewish law to become a full proselyte. The Jews did not accept individuals who had been sexually altered. To the Jew, this individual had little or no worth.

That makes this story all the more intriguing. Philip, without prejudice, proclaimed the gospel to the eunuch and baptized him into the visible body of Christ — the church.

The worth of the eunuch is unquestionable. To put this in perspective, the Holy Spirit led Philip miles off his original course to preach the gospel to (according to the Jews) a worthless, Gentile reject.

In every sense of the word, we are all rejects! Yet God still loves us, finds worth in us, and is willing to go to extremes to save us, even us rejects.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book

When the going gets tough



By Larry McDonald
Ezra 4, 5, 6

A vacationer watched with curiosity as the lumberman occasionally jabbed his sharp hook into a log, separating it from the others that were floating down a mountain stream.

When asked why he did this, the worker replied, "These may all look alike to you, but a few of them are quite different. The ones I let pass are from trees that grew in a valley where they were always protected from the storms. Their grain is coarse. The ones I've hooked and kept apart from the rest came from high up on the mountains. From the time they were small, they were beaten by strong winds. This toughens the trees and gives them a fine and beautiful grain. We save them for choice work. They're too good to make into plain lumber."

God often allows some of his dearest saints to be bent by trial or buffeted by the winds of adversity so that they may be strengthened for his service and prepared to fulfill his highest purposes. Such was the situation of the Jewish people as they were beginning to rebuild the temple.

Some pretended to be true believers in God, but they really were his enemies (4:1). Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders refused to allow those imposters to help in the rebuilding. Those foes continued to try to discourage the effort of the Jews, even going so far as to hire false prophets to work against them and frustrate the rebuilding (4:4-5).

When those efforts did not work, the opposition lodged a formal accusation against God's people (4:6). As a result of that opposition, the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill (4:24).

Throughout history many have opposed God's people and his work. At times those enemies appear to have won. In reality, they have only won a battle and not the war.

Such was the case with the rebuilding of the temple. Because of the opposition, there was a 15-year delay in completing the project. But the vision and dream of rebuilding the temple did not die.

God raised up two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, who delivered God's message to the people (5:1-2). Their message stirred up the people so they began work on the temple once again (Haggai 1:13-15). Again enemies arose to oppose this work of God (5:3). The people of God were not side-tracked this time. They continued to persevere even when the going got tough. Because of the ministry of Haggai and Zechariah, the building of the temple was completed according to the command of God (6:14-15).

Charles Swindoll tells of meeting a gentleman who served on one of Walt Disney's original advisory boards. What amazing stories he told. Those early days were tough; Disney, a remarkable, creative visionary, refused to give up.

I especially appreciated the man sharing with me how Disney responded to disagreement. He said that Disney would occasionally present some unbelievable, extensive dream he was entertaining. Almost without exception, the members of his board would gulp, blink, and stare back at him in disbelief, resisting even the thought of such a thing. Unless every member resisted the idea, Disney usually didn't pursue it. Yes, you read that correctly. The challenge wasn't big enough to merit his time and creative energy unless they were unanimously in disagreement! Is it any wonder that Disneyland and Disney World are now realities?

This type of faith is long overdue in many of our churches today. We allow people of good intentions to pour cold water upon the fire of our hearts, letting them douse God's vision and dreams for his people. Let's learn to persevere in the middle of opposition and trust God once again for the impossible.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work

Act like a pig



By Bob Rogers
Galatians 6

Missionary nurse Sharron Hawk flinched when a Nigerian co-worker said to her, "My people say you act like a pig."

The Nigerian friend went on to explain. "We have a proverb that says if you want a pig to follow you, you have to act like a pig. You speak our language, wear our clothes, eat our food, and love our babies. That's why we are willing to do what you say." (Thomas Lea, *Galatians: Saved by Grace*, p. 112)

Galatians 6:1-10 teaches Christians how to "act like a pig" by relating to one another in love.

How to relate to backsliders (v. 1). Who needs help? "Someone caught in sin." The word translated "caught" means to be overtaken by surprise.

Who should help? "You who are spiritual." 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 indicates that the spiritually mature Christian is someone who is into the "solid food" of serious Bible study, and avoids petty jealousy and quarreling.

What should be done? "Restore him."

How should he be restored? "Gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

How to relate to the burdened (vv. 2-5). The law of Moses cannot save someone from sin, but a Christian should live by the "law of Christ" (v. 2), or what James 2:8 calls the "royal law," which is to love your neighbor. How? "Carry each other's burdens."

This does not mean that we are to be lazy and let others carry all of our burdens. Verse 5 adds, "For each one should carry his own load." The word translated "burden" in verse 2 means a crushing weight, but "load" in verse 5 means a task or job, like carrying a backpack.

How to relate to your teacher (v. 6). We should "share all good things" with those who teach us God's Word. The King James Version translates as "communicate" the rich Greek word *koinoneo*, which means "to share, to have communion, fellowship or partnership."

How to relate to God (v. 7-8). Verses 7-8 warn that outward appearances cannot substitute for genuine Christian living. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked" (v. 7).

It's a sad but true fact that there have been cases of childcare workers in churches who have abused children, treasurers who have embezzled the offerings, and pastors who have had affairs. You may fool your church, but if you think you're fooling God, you're just fooling yourself.

Instead, you and I should sow spiritual seed. Verse 8 contrasts those who sow the sinful nature (literally "the flesh") and reap destruction and those who sow to the Spirit and reap eternal life.

If every day you treat people with kindness, spend time in prayer and Bible reading, and share the gospel, you will become a mature Christian with many friends who have come to know Christ. But if you drink alcohol all the time, you will destroy your liver. If you have sex before marriage, you will never get your virginity back.

Every Christian has a choice of which nature to feed: the sinful nature or the spiritual nature. Whichever nature you feed will become the strongest.

How to relate to everybody (vv. 9-10). "Let us not become weary in doing good" (v. 9). Many people get fired up in a revival or retreat and talk big about serving the Lord, but after a few weeks, they fizzle out and quit.

Doug and Evelyn Knapp were Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania from 1964-89. For many years there was almost no response, but they never quit. Then a breakthrough led to a harvest of over 50,000 souls. What would have happened if they had quit during their first term of service?

Paul urges us not to give up, and then sums it all up by saying "as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people," especially other Christians (v. 10).

Class discussion: In a sense, all of Galatians 6:1-10 relates to ways to restore the Christian "caught in a sin" (v. 1). Ask: Which action does the most good to restore him — carrying his burden (v. 2), teaching him the Word (v. 6), letting him reap what he sows (v. 8), or never giving up on him (v. 9)?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

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The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27,
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Mr. & Mrs. Joel L. Hale
Nita Laprad
A. G. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Prensuss Hicks
W. W. Harvey
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde C. Hemphill Jr.
Mrs. Eva Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd
Raymond Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Mr. Sam Heideberg
Ms. Daphne Walcy
Mrs. Annette Cothran Henley
Mrs. Loretta Rutledge
Mrs. W. B. Keena
Marvin and Neil Dixon
Mr. Keith Herring
Tony, Judy and Martie Jones
Mrs. Juanita Hewitt
Bude First Baptist Church
Thomas D. Hinson
Mr. & Mrs. Reese anell
Robert Hisaw
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Coleman Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Hobby
Ruth Stubbs and Family
H. O. Holland
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Jackson
Mrs. Ruth Holleman
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour M. Lipscomb
Jack Horn
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vickers
John House
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald D. Beard
Mr. & Mrs. F. Mason Shelby Jr.
Lloyd J. Howard
Kolola Springs Baptist Church
Doris Hudgins
McAdams Baptist Church
Mrs. Maggie Ivy
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones
Gladys Jaye
Mr. Hank Norwood
(to be continued)

**JUNE 1, 1995-
JUNE 30, 1995**

HONORS

Mrs. Macie Barton
Rev. and Mrs. Randle Puss
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Brooks
Rev. and Mrs. Randle Puss
Lennis Burnham
Doris Vinant
Dale Clark
Doris Vinant
Mr. and Mrs. Leland Cook
Ruth SS, FBC Tupelo
Mrs. Mildred Dishongh
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC Columbus
Mrs. Frances Harpole
Eloise Crossley SS, FBC Columbus
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Helms
Rev. and Mrs. Randle Puss
Mrs. Frank Leftwich
Mrs. Dwight Luman
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Mrs. Alfred Nowell
Miss Janette Nowell
Rev. Mark Parnell
Deborah SS, FBC Poplarville
Mr. J. Paul Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry McDaniel
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Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dannenberg

capsules

SBCNET USERS TESTIFY TO UNEXPECTED VALUES: NASHVILLE (BP) — Ministry among Southern Baptists occurs almost everywhere, even in cyberspace. SBCNet, Southern Baptists' data communications network coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, has become another place laypersons and church staff people meet others' needs. Two recent examples reference the "connections" people sometimes make through "the net." Howard Burkhardt of California recently wrote SBCNet coordinator David Haywood to say SBCNet had helped his family in an emergency. "My parents live in Florida, but are summer residents in southern Colorado," he explained. "Thursday morning my stepfather had a heart attack in Colorado. He was rushed to Durango and put in the hospital. They were very afraid and scared. I knew of James Bush (pastor of First Baptist Church, Flora Vista, N.M.) from SBCNet and that he is a pastor living only 20 minutes from Durango. I... called him. He was able to go and minister to my parents in the hospital." Those who are already members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt. Among the services available on SBCNet are Baptist Press and other news items, a variety of Sunday school helps and foreign missions prayer requests. To order an SBCNet kit or to obtain additional information, call (800) 325-7749.

BSSB TRUSTEES VOTE FUNDS TO ENDOW DRAPER CHAIR: RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Baptist Sunday School Board trustees unanimously authorized a gift of \$200,000 to Southwestern Seminary for the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries Sept. 25 during their fall meeting at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. Established in 1994, the Draper chair will be activated when designated endowment funds reach \$1 million. First Church of Euless, Texas, where Draper served as pastor 16 years before becoming BSSB president in 1991, recently pledged \$100,000.

SAMFORD TRUSTEES APPROVE PURCHASE OF CARVER SCHOOL: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Compiled from wire reports) — Samford University will acquire the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Seminary next summer for an undisclosed price, if seminary trustees give their approval. Under terms of the deal, the Carver School would continue to operate on the seminary's Louisville, Ky., campus through the spring of 1997, although after Aug. 1, 1996, it would be controlled by Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Samford's trustees privately authorized the university's president to finalize the deal Sept. 8, and Southern's trustees are expected to give their consent when they meet Oct. 9-11. The biggest unknown may be whether accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education will transfer with the school. Southern Seminary's faculty has adopted a statement commending the administration and trustees in their actions to resolve the future of the Carver School of Church Social Work, but lamenting the loss of the school. Although the statement "laments" the loss of the school and its curriculum, President R. Albert Mohler Jr. noted social ministries courses will continue to be offered at Southern through the master of divinity-social ministries degree program.

BAPTIST VOLS FEED 100,000 IN CARIBBEAN RELIEF: DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas and Alabama prepared close to 100,000 meals in their first week of disaster relief on the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix following Hurricane Marilyn. Texas Baptists restored electricity and replaced plumbing at the Blackbeard's Castle Hotel on St. Thomas and set up their headquarters there, preparing meals continuously each day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Using rationed bottled water, they cooked about 52,000 meals that were served by Red Cross personnel. On Sept. 26 alone, the Texans prepared 6,280 meals for St. Thomas and 2,000 more for delivery on St. John. Alabama Baptists set up emergency food service at the airport in St. Croix, serving more than 46,000 meals in seven days.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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NAH FGCVC QTTRZAE VKTA LDGY CNZLD, MZLD
YGA ZL ZC ZYKTCZUQG, UVL ATL MZLD ETH:
PTO MZLD ETH NQQ LDZAE NOG KTCZUQG.

YNOR LGA: LMGALB-CGWGA

This week's clue: D equals H.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Exodus One: Nine.

Mississippian Smith counts on God's gifts for renewal in crisis

By Charles L. Willis

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP) — **Graham Smith** knows about personal crises and how to renew a troubled spirit.

In the last four months, Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and his wife Alice have dealt with the sudden death of her mother, the still birth of a grandchild, and his mother's falling and sustaining a broken hip.

"Not many things are going to turn out to be fair in life," he told participants in a session on personal renewal during the Common Ground worship gathering in Riverside, Calif., Sept. 14-16.

"In the Christian sense, renewal refers to a new beginning — rethinking who God is, what he has done for me, and what he wants me to do with the talents, gifts, and time he has given me," Smith said. "One of the ways I get renewed is to use some of the gifts God has given me and to which I try to be faithful."

A vocalist, Smith said he believes, "If we have Jesus in our hearts, even in the deepest valley, we should have joy — even if it is diminished somewhat — in our hearts."

"When we have begun to think freshly about our great, loving, creative God, his Son Jesus Christ,

and the Holy Spirit, we can begin to put other areas of our life back into perspective."

In renewal, one must love the Lord and worship, but also "we must love ourselves," Smith said. "We have a false humility that we should put others ahead of ourselves, but we have to appreciate who we are and what we can be in his service in appreciation for and good stewardship of his creation."

Christian personal renewal is taking the time spiritually and mentally "to get back to our rock and our anchor, our God who cares so completely for his creation — you and me," Smith said.

Christians need to be aware people around them may be dealing with personal pain and private struggles, he said.

"We need to be loving to each other," he said, "because we don't know what is behind the facade."

"Our God has promised the ultimate — himself, his presence, his comfort, his grace. There is no other. The joy of worshiping God is not an escape from reality. When we face difficult times and



Smith

trials, he will be there. He does promise us a way, his way."

The Common Ground worship gathering was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's music and pastor-staff leadership departments and the California Convention.

Diversity in worship styles and musical tastes, as well as common elements of faith and worship among Southern Baptist churches, were the focus of Common Ground.

Approximately 500 Southern Baptist worship leaders from churches in 11 states met in sessions ranging from concerts, worship services, and classes.

Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; and Harold Best, dean of the Wheaton (Ill.) College Conservatory of Music, were principal speakers for the gathering.

Future Common Ground worship gatherings are scheduled for April 15-17, 1996, in Jackson, Miss.; Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 1996, in Atlanta; and April 17-19, 1997, in Harrisburg, Pa.

Willis writes for BSSB.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Why is it wrong to go to casinos for a good time? I don't drink or spend money that deprives my family of the things we need.

When Christians frequent casinos and gambling establishments of any type, there is a testimony we are giving to the world. Christians are called to be "in the world but not of the world." Casino advertisements show all the glitter and excitement, but the true facts need to be told. To make this point with my young sons, I drove past a casino and asked them to study the faces of people entering and leaving the casino. They realized that not everyone who goes in comes out a winner. Another good example is the money people throw away on arcade games at the fair to get a cheap stuffed animal (that's gambling, too). When we indulge in any aspect of gambling, we help support the total program, and we can be a spiritual distraction to ourselves, our families, and others who are depending on

our Christian witness. Study Galatians 5:1-2, 13. Listen to what God is telling you and be loyal to your conscience.

My husband converted to Islam in prison and expects me to attend mosque with him. I am devoutly Christian and don't intend to go. How should I handle this?

What will it hurt to attend mosque with him? You are firmly grounded in your faith, and hopefully you have studied Islam enough to understand the flaws of that belief system. By attending mosque a few times with your husband, you will gain understanding and better prepare yourself to discuss why you disagree with him about the two faiths. Ask your Christian friends to pray for him and minister to him. He needs to experience the love of Christ from the Christian community. The genuine love of brothers and sisters in Christ can bring about truth in a multitude of ways.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Baptist Record

Oct

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